Rifles in Jammu & Kashmir. Orders have been issued to the concerned authorities to complete the necessary formalities early to enable payment of rentals to the property owners.

Criminal negligence cases pointed out by CAG

5490. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agreement entered into for the supply of ammunition for 122 mm mortars and 130 mm medium field (Russian origin) in 1993;

(b) whether the investigation to fix responsibility for this criminal negligence as per comments of CAG has since been carried out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A Contract dated 21.1.1993 was signed with M/s Pitcare Ltd., Hongkong for the supply of 10000 rounds of 130 mm Illuminating Ammunition and 6700 rounds of 122 mm Illuminating Ammunition. The value of the contract was USD 6,118,400 and delivery was to be within 3 months from the date of receipt of Letter of Credit. The Letter of Credit was required to be opened for the full amount of the contract within 30 days from the effective date of contract. The contract carried a warranty period of 5 years from the date of Bill of Lading and contained an Inspection and Acceptance clause.

(b) The Central Ammunition Depot (CAD), Pulgaon intimated in September, 1993 the receipt of consignment of 10000 nos of 130 mm illuminating ammunition from Hongkong against the contract. Since the consignment was received without technical literature and range tables, the check proof of the consignment was delayed. The check proof was conducted in August, 1995 on receipt of fuze setting key and range tables from the firm. Ten rounds were fired of which three recorded defects. The consignment was subjected to reproof by firing 13 rounds in December, 1995 out of which 12 rounds recorded failures. In view of the unsatisfactory performance of the ammunition during check proof, the consignment was recommended as "Not fit for Use" and quality claim raised against the firm.

In view of the comments of CAG contained in Report No. 7 of 1999 (Defence Services) the case stands referred to CBI on 20.4.2000 for independent investigation.

Delivery of shells from Russia

5491. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 621 given in Rajya Sabha on 1st March, 2000 and state:

(a) by when the shells are likely to be delivered; and

(b) what are the performance results of the testives made of the shells?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The complete consignment of shells has been delivered in April, 2000.

(b) The procurement was made after successful trial evaluation of shells in desert and mountainous terrain at an altitude of 4000 meters.

Appointments in Army Base Workshop

†5492. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of appointments have been made in Army Base Workshop during the last month and a lot of irregularities have been committed therein;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of such persons have also been appointed through these irregularities who are directly or indirectly related with ISI;

(c) whether Government have conducted any investigation in the matter and action taken thereon;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, as to why Government are taking indifferent attitude towards such a sensitive matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Recruitments have taken place in February, 2000, at Army Base Workshop, Delhi Cantonment. A court case alleging malpractice in the recruitment, has been filed by some candidates.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.